

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS DIVISION
SP-879ANOTHER ONE FROM TEXAS

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An article with the above title appeared in the newspaper, Literaturnaya Gazeta, 12 June 1965. The following is a full translation of the text.

"On Sunday, 11 April 1965, US President Lyndon Johnson, who was spending a weekend at his Texas ranch, started out as usual by going to church. Then he visited the house where he spent his childhood to check on the work of irrigating a grass plot.

Nothing seemed to presage any sensational event. However, the correspondents assigned to the White House were somewhat puzzled. Lyndon Johnson was accompanied all through the day by a stocky, redhaired man, who was immediately recognized as Retired Vice-Admiral William Francis Raborn, Jr.

Several hours later the President suddenly announced that he was appointing William Raborn to replace John McCone who was retiring, as director of the US Central Intelligence Agency, or simply, as the American top spy, since according to law the CIA chief is at the same time chairman of the Council on Intelligence Matters [National Intelligence Board] and coordinates the activities of all intelligence organizations of the country.

This appointment was quickly confirmed by the Senate, and on 28 April Raborn already took the oath as new director of CIA, the "supersecret" organ of the US government, the uncontrolled expenditures of which are between one half billion and one billion dollars per year. (For the sake of comparison, it may be pointed out that during 4 years of World War II US Intelligence, i.e. the Office of Strategic Services, spent approximately 135 million dollars for its activities.)

The Admiral-Businessman

For Admiral Raborn, however, huge sums of money are nothing new. He acquired renown, not by sailing oceans or by combat operations, but as the man who headed the development and production of "Polaris" missiles, which are launched from submerged submarines. Even before this missile was launched for the first time, 3.5 billion dollars were spent on it (by this time, it has cost the US taxpayers more than 10 billion dollars).